



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006
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**TEXAS CITY WOMAN SENTENCED TO LIFE
FOR CRACK CONSPIRACY CONVICTION**

HOUSTON, TX – Carol Denise Richardson, 38, of Texas City, will be serving a life sentence without parole for her crack cocaine conspiracy conviction. Richardson's husband, Eskico Garner, also convicted for his part in the conspiracy, is pending sentencing on July 14, 2006.

Richardson, who was convicted of the conspiracy and several federal substantive drug charges by a jury's verdict on March 8, 2006, was sentenced on Friday, June 16, 2006. Richardson has an extensive criminal history, including two prior state drug felony convictions in Galveston County for the delivery and possession of a controlled substance. Under federal law, the United States could and did seek a sentencing enhancement based upon her two prior drug convictions, raising the mandatory minimum statutory sentence the court could impose to life imprisonment. Garner, who also has an extensive criminal history, including one prior felony drug conviction, faces a mandatory minimum statutory sentence of 20 years in prison without parole at his sentencing. Garner is 75 years of age.

During the March trial, the United States presented testimony that proved that between October 2004 through April 2005, Richardson and her husband, Eskico Garner, conspired with others to conduct six crack cocaine transactions involving a total of approximately 200 grams of crack cocaine. During each transaction, a confidential informant working with the Drug Enforcement Administration purchased crack cocaine from Garner, Richardson, and three other co-conspirators.

Richardson and Garner, both determined by a United States Magistrate Judge to pose a danger to the community due to their respective extensive criminal histories, have been in federal custody without bond since their arrest in August 2005.

The other three defendants charged in this case -- Gary Roshan Horton, 26, Eric Dwayne Singleton, 23, and Keith Bernard Moore, 41, all long time Galveston County residents, have each been convicted after entering guilty pleas. Horton is presently serving 37 months in federal prison, Moore 30 months, and Singleton 48 months. All federal prison terms are without parole. Additionally, upon their release from prison, each of these defendants will be supervised by the court for several years. Failure to abide by the conditions of their release could result in the imposition of an additional prison term.

This case was investigated by special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ted Imperato.

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